

# **South Carolina**

## **Drug Control and System Improvement Formula Grant Program**

### **State Annual Report**

**State Fiscal Year 2002  
July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003**

**S.C. Department of Public Safety  
Office of Justice Programs**



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outh Carolina continues to have an unenviable record regarding both violent crime and drug crime. Historically, South Carolina often has been ranked among the most violent states in the country. In fact, the Violence Policy Center ranked South Carolina first in 2001 as the state with the highest homicide rate among female victims by male offenders. South Carolina ranked first among the states in violent crime in 2002, and has consistently ranked no lower than fifth in recent years. In fact, South Carolina's violent crime rate has exceeded the national violent crime rate every year since 1975. In 2002, the state's violent crime rate increased 3.6%, while the national violent crime rate decreased 1.8%. This top ranking in the violent crime rate is due largely to the highest aggravated assault rate among the states in 2002. However, South Carolina also experienced an alarming 13.8% increase in the rape rate from 2001 to 2002. This resulted in the fourth highest rape rate among the states for 2002.

There is a general consensus that illegal drugs significantly contribute to this high violent crime rate. Although drug arrests in 2002 remained at relatively the same level since 2000, drug law violations was the number one arrest category according to *Crime in South Carolina 2002*. Although these violations continued to involve primarily crack, cocaine and marijuana, there is a growing problem with methamphetamine in South Carolina and across the nation. The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) reported that in fiscal 2002 there were dramatic escalations in the numbers of methamphetamine lab seizures nationally. Due to the efforts of the five DEA offices in South Carolina along with the combined efforts of state and local law enforcement, 2.6 kilograms of methamphetamine and 100 methamphetamine labs were seized in fiscal year 2002. Furthermore, the increased attention to and enforcement of methamphetamine production in South Carolina resulted in these agencies seizing an additional 130 methamphetamine labs in fiscal 2003.

A lack of coordination between state and local criminal justice agencies in some instances may be hampering the enforcement of drug and violent crime. However, since the events of September 11, 2001 and with recent major budget cuts, more agencies are attempting to break down old barriers and coordinate with other agencies for the more effective use of limited dollars. Although there has been an increase in the number of joint efforts by local, state and federal agencies, there is still a need for continued and better coordination.

Between July 1, 2002, and June 30, 2003, the State of South Carolina, using Byrne Formula funds, supported 81 individual projects within 10 general program areas designed to reduce drug-related incidents and violent crime based on the priority areas detailed in the *State Strategy*. Awards to state and local agencies totaled \$7,117,034 in a combination of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2002 and 2001 DCSIP funds.

In addition, in an effort to continue to support the safety and security of our law enforcement officers across South Carolina, a separate solicitation to purchase bullet proof vests using FFY99 unspent Byrne funds was distributed to all law enforcement agencies in the state. As a result, 48 grants were awarded with 951 vests purchased. The decision to utilize these unspent funds in this manner was, in part, the outcome of discussions about the need for safety equipment for law enforcement officers at a time of limited budgets in most departments. Also taken into consideration was the fact that ten officers were killed and 318 officers were assaulted in the line of duty in South Carolina in 2002.

The current document, the *2002 State Annual Report*, first provides a concise description of the activities and accomplishments of the various subgrantees. The *Annual Report* also discusses

the OJP's evaluation resources and methods of assessing project performance for the purpose of duplicating positive efforts and identifying problem areas to avoid in the future. Results of outside evaluations of funded projects are also reviewed. Finally, the report gives detailed accounts of each program and the projects contained therein, including specific information on goals, activities and progress made over the past grant year.

## **FY 2002 Activities and Achievements**

### **Law Enforcement:**

- ô Two multi-jurisdictional narcotics task forces were funded, one for its first year and another for a fifth year, to focus on the investigation and arrest of mid-to-upper level drug dealers. Task force investigations resulted in 2,506 arrests, 883 convictions, confiscation of large quantities of narcotics, and seizure of assets worth over \$800,000.
- ô A Violent Crime Task Force was created to target, investigate, prosecute and convict individuals responsible for repeated acts of violence. Offenders were processed through the federal courts where non-parolable and longer sentences in federal prisons would result. Sixty-nine individuals were arrested on federal charges, with 26 indictments and 24 convictions. There were also 691 arrests and 147 convictions on the state level. Some of the incidents involved confiscation of weapons and drugs.
- ô Several subgrantees received funds to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement. One improved dissemination of law enforcement training at a reduced cost by video conferencing from a specially equipped classroom at the state's law enforcement training academy to satellite sites. A second agency worked to establish standardized procedures to collect computer evidence and provide forensic examination of seized computers and evidence to assist federal, state and local agencies. A state correctional agency used grant funds to enhance its drug interdiction efforts that included using canines. Institutions with high numbers of positive inmate drug tests were targeted and searches of inmates, employees and visitors were conducted.
- ô Awards to improve forensic services were provided to six agencies. Prosecution of suspects was expedited as these departments implemented or upgraded their grant-funded drug labs to perform narcotics analyses with a minimum turnaround time.
- ô Child/Elder Abuse was the focus of grants awarded to seven agencies. Grant-funded officers in four of the agencies developed multidisciplinary approaches to child and elder abuse cases that improved investigatory techniques and made the process less traumatic for victims. A prosecutor dedicated solely to the prosecution of child/elder abuse cases was funded in two solicitor's offices. These prosecutors worked closely with investigators to address what charges to pursue and ways to build stronger cases. Additionally, a child abuse investigator was funded in another solicitor's office.
- ô Six agencies addressed the issue of domestic violence through specialized investigators to ensure better investigations and provide more coordination of support for the victims. These investigators attempted to take a proactive stance to prevent further abuse by raising public awareness regarding this problem.

- ô Some smaller jurisdictions could not support individual investigators for CDV cases and for Child/Elder abuse cases. The dynamics and investigation process of these types of cases is similar. Therefore, five agencies requested funding for an investigator to handle both CDV and Child/Elder abuse incidents in their jurisdictions.
- ô Four local agencies and one state agency received funding for narcotics interdiction programs to help fight street sales of drugs. The focus of these programs was to lessen the availability of illegal substances to the public by targeting sellers and users violating drug laws at the street level.

#### **Judicial Procedure:**

- ô Two projects were funded to improve the operational effectiveness of the court process. Both awards were made to solicitor's offices providing funding for assistant solicitors who exclusively handled violent or drug crime cases within their judicial circuit.
- ô Drug Courts provide a diversionary alternative for General Sessions cases meeting certain criteria and offer access to intensive drug treatment options. This year grant funds were provided to continue drug court programs in two judicial circuits. Their programs offered such resources as intensive outpatient treatment, vocational rehabilitation, inpatient treatment, self-help sessions, and mental health referrals.
- ô Grant funds helped establish a comprehensive mental health court program. Its purpose was to identify offenders with mental health disorders, divert them to community treatment, and provide judicial oversight. This population often lacks access to mental health treatment, are often arrested for minor offenses and, on release, many become repeat offenders. The program attempted to break this continuing cycle.

#### **Criminal Justice Information Systems**

- ô The South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) continued redevelopment efforts for a centralized jail management database. Through modifications to the program, SCDC worked to expand the fields of information that could be captured, improve submission of current, accurate records from local jails and detentions centers, and enhance law enforcement personnel's ability to search and use the data.
- ô A sheriff's office received funding to integrate its jail management system with the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) so fingerprint and other criminal booking information could be electronically transmitted via the LIVESCAN device to SLED/AFIS.
- ô The South Carolina Judicial Department (SCJD) initiative provided reliable information technology systems to improve efficiency in day-to-day operations by automating processes within the forty-six county Clerk of Court offices. The initiative also began expanding this technology to the magistrate court level.
- ô Two local police agencies purchased computer equipment and software to improve their records management and submission of data to SLED. The new systems have given the agencies the capability to provide quality reports, complete paperwork quickly, and provide data concerning logistics, arrests and personal information on suspects as well

as meet SLED's mandate to be able to electronically submit data by December 2003.

- ô Three agencies received funding to electronically access SLED's criminal records using NCIC technology. These projects involved approval of software, programming and/or installation of routers, site security surveys, and training of personnel.

#### **Prevention/Education:**

- ô Seventeen School Resource Officer (SRO) projects were funded continuing expansion of this program into new jurisdictions. Maintaining a full-time presence at an assigned school enabled each officer to serve as a deterrent against criminal incidents in the facility and encourage juveniles to have a more positive attitude toward law enforcement through classroom instruction and counseling sessions. The program relied heavily on positive interaction between officers and students, parents, and school administration.
- ô A community-oriented policing program continued at one sheriff's office with grant funding. This project focused on directly involving the community as partners in the process of identifying, prioritizing and solving the problems that cause crime.

#### **Anti-Terrorism:**

- ô Funding was provided to fourteen agencies to enhance law enforcement capabilities for responding to terrorist acts and support efforts to develop and implement anti-terrorism training programs. These agencies purchased a variety of equipment to protect first-responders, enhance communication capabilities, and transport equipment in the event of an act of chemical or biological terrorism. Some agencies also had personnel attend training on responding to terrorist acts and in the proper use of the equipment. The SFA coordinated with the state Emergency Management Division to assure that funding under DCSIP did not duplicate funding from FEMA that was passed to local agencies.

#### **Innovative Criminal Justice Programs:**

- ô The Office of Justice Programs, acting on behalf of the South Carolina Public Safety Coordinating Council, continued an innovative project to reduce violent crime in a targeted geographic area in the state, Orangeburg County, by means of a concentrated and coordinated effort over a defined period of time. This endeavor combines traditional components of the criminal justice system as well as individuals and agencies from all sectors of the community. A consultant oversees the planning, implementation and evaluation phases of the Strategic Plan. The underlying premise is that if piecemeal efforts were not resulting in a reduction of violent crime, possibly a concentrated effort involving all segments of the community would.
- ô In conjunction with the larger project and as one of the recommended implementation measures, the South Carolina Judicial Department received funding to assign a non-rotating judge, and law clerk, for the General Sessions Court in Orangeburg County. This effort was made in order to bring more rigor to the criminal trial process and to increase the deterrent effect for violent crimes. The judge tried all the cases and increased the terms of court. As a result, the disposition rate increased and the number

of pending cases decreased. It is anticipated that this speedier time-to-trial should exert a positive effect on deterrence in Orangeburg County.

- ô Additionally, as another part of the overall plan, the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office received grant funds for a crime prevention media project. Through the use of radio and television crime stopper segments, the program focused on deterring involvement in drug and violent crimes.



**State Annual Report of the Edward Byrne Memorial  
State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance  
Formula Grant Program  
July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003  
State of South Carolina  
Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs**

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A full-time Program Evaluator for the DCSIP assists in compiling data to show program accomplishments, works with subgrantees in designing their self-evaluation plans, and tracks formal impact evaluations. Again this year, the Program Evaluator has revised the Progress Reports to more effectively collect project data. Modifying these forms has proven to be an ongoing process based on subgrantees' suggestions as well as their difficulties in submitting the requested figures. While first year projects continued to complete four quarterly progress reports, second and third year projects were only required to complete two progress reports for the year. The progress forms have also been altered to encourage the agencies to provide more specific details on their operations and eliminate asking for information that could be obtained by referring to other materials received from the funded agencies. The new reports ask questions and collect data that are closely tied to project objectives.

At the end of FY 2002, every grant-funded project submitted an annual evaluation report based on information requested by the Program Evaluator that addressed the activities of their particular projects. In response, each project director examined their accomplishments and reported the extent to which they achieved their objectives by having followed the matching performance indicators. Also included was an impact statement describing the effect the project had on the original problem as described in the grant application. The Program Evaluator used this information together with the Progress Reports and other materials submitted throughout the grant year to write the *FY 2002 State Annual Report*. In instances where the data was incomplete or further explanation was required, project directors were personally contacted.

Other activities related to evaluation included on-site monitoring of grant-funded projects and attendance by staff members at seminars and conferences to gain knowledge in a variety of areas. Seminar topics included prescription drug abuse, domestic and foreign terrorism, methamphetamine labs and other law-related subjects.

In FY 2002, the DCSIP funded 81 projects with FY 2002 and FY 2001 DCSIP Formula Grant Funds. The Program Administrator, three Program Coordinators and the Program Evaluator conducted on-site monitoring visits to all of these projects during the grant year. However, because first year and more complex projects were visited more than once, 111 on-site monitoring visits were completed in FY 2002. If there were areas of concern with a particular project, additional follow-up visits were made.

The focus of on-site monitoring was to document program activities and outcomes: the actions that are taken, the techniques and intensity with which they were pursued, and the outcomes that resulted. The relationship between actual subgrant activities and the project plan was also examined. Program monitoring was concerned with measures that included qualitative assessment of program activities and quantitative indicators. Whenever possible, program coordinators met not only with the grant-funded personnel but also others involved in the project to help provide a clearer picture of the grant's progress and opportunity for success in the future. For projects in their final year of funding, the topic of acquiring local support for continuation was discussed and subgrantees were encouraged to pursue all available options.

### Violent Crime Reduction Project

The Violent Crime Reduction Project (or Strategic Plan), under Purpose Area 16, focused on reducing violent crime in a targeted geographic area by means of an extraordinarily concentrated and coordinated effort involving all segments of the community over a defined period of time. This two-year project overseen by the consulting firm of Justice Planning Associates (JPA) involved three phases: planning, implementation and evaluation. They determined that the problem was one primarily of culture and attitude best addressed by a focused effort to enhance the traditional mechanisms of deterrence and essentially through the use of existing resources. In May, 2003, JPA submitted an evaluation report of the effectiveness of the violent crime reduction effort in Orangeburg County. The report focused on changes in two areas, law enforcement and the trial process, and provided a general strategy for reducing violent crime in other South Carolina counties.

Performance measures of the project were to increase patrol deterrence through a zero tolerance policy, to increase investigative deterrence through a significantly higher arrest rate, and to increase deterrence by heightening the perception of swift and certain justice. The results of the statistical evaluation indicated that there was a 22 percent decrease in the total number of violent offenses since the inception of the project. There was also a 44 percent increase in the clearance rate for violent offenses. In addition, the disposition rate increased by 15 percent and the number of pending cases decreased by 31 percent.

The evaluation concluded that most county criminal justice systems are staffed with individuals trying to do the best they can. They are constrained by the cultures within which they operate, the resources they have available, the attention that they can devote to a particular problem or issue, and by their own management skills. They are also constrained by inertia. In order, to expect a significant change in result, such as a substantial reduction in violent crime, some outside catalyst who can objectively concentrate on, and apply consistent pressure to, that particular problem is necessary. The combination of an outside catalyst, committed top-down leadership, and time can produce a significant change in a county's violent crime problem.

At present, the Office of Justice Programs is soliciting proposals for professional consultants to conduct further evaluation of the Violent Crime Reduction Project. The results of this outside evaluation should be completed in time to be included in the next annual report.

### Lexington County Domestic Violence Court

South Carolina's first specialized domestic violence court has been found to be effective, according to a study conducted by criminal justice researchers at the University of South Carolina over a two-year period. The project was funded by the National Institute of Justice, U. S. Department of Justice, award #2000-WT-VX-0015.

The Lexington County Domestic Violence Court (CDVC) was created because judges, law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim advocates recognized that criminal domestic violence cases must be treated differently in order to be properly and justly adjudicated. The court began in late 1999 and has continued to evolve into a proactive and progressive court. Initial funding for the court came from DCSIP grants awarded over three years (FY 1999-2001) under Purpose Area 18.

Including process and impact components, the evaluation was undertaken to measure the extent to which the CDVC was successful in implementing its goals of establishing an effective

court that enhanced victim safety and provided a model of therapeutic jurisprudence. The findings were based on observations of court operations, interviews with key court staff, interviews with victims and defendants, analysis of arrest trends, and the recidivism rates from a sample of defendants processed through the CDVC compared to a historical comparison sample of defendants processed in traditional magistrate's courts.

The results from the process evaluation indicated that an effective courtroom workgroup emerged and that important systemic changes occurred in the manner in which domestic violence cases were processed. Specifically, the court changed the focus of domestic violence prosecution from a traditional passive approach to an active approach that emphasized victim safety, offender accountability, and batterer treatment. Results suggested that specialized domestic violence courts that emphasize collaboration between law enforcement officials, prosecutors, judges, and treatment providers can be successfully implemented and can change the intervention process through which domestic violence cases are adjudicated.

The results from the impact evaluation suggested that domestic violence can be affected by increasing and coordinating attention from representatives of the criminal justice system. Specifically, recidivism for domestic violence offenders was significantly reduced during a period when the overall number of domestic violence arrests increased. The recidivism analysis found that 19% of the historical sample was re-arrested for a domestic violence offense during the follow-up period compared to only 11.6% of the CDVC sample.

According to the evaluation report, to more accurately isolate the effects of the domestic violence court on recidivism for domestic violence offenses, a regression model was then used. This model was used to estimate the impact of the court, controlling for prior domestic violence arrests, number of charges, pre-trial diversion, employment status, race, gender, and the number of days in jail pre-trial. The findings indicated that an additional prior domestic violence arrest increased the odds of recidivism by 46% for the historical sample. An additional charge increased the odds of recidivism by 77%. In contrast, being processed through the domestic violence court decreased the odds of recidivism by 50%.

Jurisdictions that choose to effectively address their domestic violence problem and develop specialized domestic violence courts need to take several steps to assure an effective and efficient outcome. As a result of the positive outcome findings from this study, suggestions to help a jurisdiction establish the appropriate design of a specialized domestic violence were included in the report.



<b>Subgrants:</b>	Two
<b>Implementing Agencies:</b>	Lexington County Sheriff's Office (Lead Agency). Additional Agencies: Irmo Police Department, Springdale Police Department, Cayce Department of Public Safety Rock Hill Police Department (Lead Agency). Additional Agencies: York County Sheriff's Office, York Police Department, Fort Mill Police Department, Tega Cay Police Department
<b>Federal Funds:</b>	\$ 529,972
<b>Match Funds:</b>	\$ 176,651
<b>Authorized Purpose Area:</b>	02a
<b>Year of BJA Program Brief Approval:</b>	FFY 1989

**Goals/Objectives:**

Enhancement of existing efforts in enforcement, prosecution and conviction of major drug offenders through shared critical resources and elimination of jurisdictional problems was the goal of the narcotics multi-jurisdictional task force programs. This was accomplished through formation of true, separate and distinct entities known as Narcotics Multijurisdictional Task Forces (NMJTF) that pooled manpower, equipment, intelligence and other pertinent resources. While providing assistance to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, the task forces jointly planned operations and strategy for targeting drug offenders. Coordinating efforts with prosecutors to build stronger cases and raise the conviction rate was a primary objective.

**Program Activities/Components:**

Both of the NMJTFs implemented activities aimed at combating one or more of the following elements: illicit drug distribution, street sales, financial backing, crop cultivation, manufacturing, diversion, importation, money laundering, official corruption and gang activity. In addition, the multi-jurisdictional task forces developed written interagency agreements to document their establishment, agreements and operating procedures. The task forces targeted and arrested area mid-to-upper level drug dealers and traffickers, tracked data on cases from arrest to final disposition, shared information among the task force members and improved investigations and preparation of cases for court. In some instances, task force operations were coordinated with federal and/or state agencies. Prosecution efforts were enhanced by assigning a prosecutorial liaison to each of the NMJTFs from the same judicial circuit in which the task forces operated. The assistant solicitors were involved in the day-to-day operations of the task forces, handled civil proceedings to expedite asset seizures into forfeitures, facilitated the handling of cases, acted as legal counsel for the task forces, apprised members of changes in legal opinions and criminal procedures, conducted training sessions on report writing and courtroom testimony,

and assisted in development of uniform guidelines for confidential informant use. The NMJTFs ensured that members received training courses related to their drug enforcement activities.

### **Performance Measures:**

The task forces attempted to assess enhanced information sharing, communication, cooperation and understanding between law enforcement and prosecuting agencies. The success of the task forces relied heavily upon their governing boards' commitment to ensuring full implementation of the projects. The governing boards were composed of a representative from each of the law enforcement and prosecution agencies participating in the task forces. They were expected to meet at least once every thirty days to monitor the status and assess progress of task force operations. At each board meeting, the lead agency presented case progress reports including problems, additional funding requests and significant developments or changes. Statistical data was maintained on the cases made, arrests or indictments, and resulting guilty pleas or convictions. Data was also compiled on the dollar value of seized cash and property, persons investigated, and how task force operations disrupted and eliminated area drug trafficking. This information was used by the task force commanders to measure successes, failures, and resource needs for future task force operations.

### **Progress and Accomplishments:**

- The Narcotics Multi-jurisdictional Task Forces pooled human resources, equipment, knowledge and expertise to attack the distribution of illicit drugs in their counties while dissolving the jurisdictional barriers that have often hindered investigations. All of the municipal Police Departments, the Sheriff's Offices, and the Solicitor's Offices within the jurisdictional boundaries of the two Task Forces assigned personnel full time to the units.
- The purpose, mission statement and working conditions of each group were detailed through signed Interagency Agreements. Cooperation was promoted through monthly board meetings at which agency heads and interested parties discussed current cases, areas of concern and ways to improve the narcotics enforcement methods.
- In many instances, a high degree of cooperation was exhibited between the NMJTFs and law enforcement agencies throughout the state such as SLED, the S.C. Highway Patrol, S.C. Probation, Parole & Pardon Services, S.C. Department of Public Safety, county sheriff's offices, local police departments and other task forces. The Task Forces also worked with the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Drug Enforcement Agency, Alcohol-Tobacco-Firearms, U.S. Customs, and U.S. Attorney's Office and established cooperative relationships with agencies in Florida, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia and Ohio and private corporations such as United Parcel Service while investigating illicit narcotics operations across state lines. These joint efforts resulted in an increased sharing of intelligence and longer prison sentences for offenders in federal court.
- Specialized training was provided at monthly staff meetings. Task Force members also attended additional classes to augment their expertise and enable them to better perform their duties. Confiscation and Forfeiture Laws, Narcotics Commander School, Gangs, SkyNarc, Interview and Interrogation, Advanced Drug Enforcement and Raids (Deep Search) were just a few of the topics covered by these courses.
- To facilitate case prosecution for one of the Task Forces, four assistant solicitors were

assigned to prosecute narcotics cases exclusively and an administrative staff person assisted. Additionally, a chemist was assigned full time to analyze all drugs seized by the unit. Seizure/forfeiture matters were also handled more expeditiously by this group.

- Over \$800,000 in assets were seized by the two task forces in FY 2002 and over \$214,000 was actually forfeited to be turned back to the task forces. The assets seized included 34 vehicles and 303 weapons as well as almost \$300,000 in cash.
- There were a total of 2,506 task force arrests and 883 convictions for drug and related crimes during the year. The highest numbers of arrests and convictions continued to be for charges involving cocaine, crack and marijuana.
- Task Force members continued to use grant-funded surveillance equipment as a means of gathering stronger evidence for use in court. Being able to monitor the progress of undercover operations helped increase the safety of officers and convinced some defendants to cooperate in investigations.
- Task Force leaders reported strong support from residents in neighborhoods and communities with longstanding drug problems. Some task force officers also made presentations about their activities and the consequences of crime and using drugs at local churches, school programs and civic organizations to reach people of every age.

## Narcotics Multijurisdictional Task Force Performance Measures

Type of Narcotic	Arrests	Convictions*
Cocaine	515	66
Crack	682	222
Opiates	3	0
Hallucinogens	83	5
Stimulants	91	11
Cannabis	781	253
Multiple/Other Drugs	299	302
	2454	869

- As it often takes months or years for cases to come to trial or reach disposition, some of those convicted in FY 2002 may have been arrested prior to that time. Similarly, this data does not necessarily reflect the dispositional status of all those arrested in FY 2002.



<b>Narcotics Seizures</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Cocaine	3954.72 grams
Crack	2300.78 grams
Opiates	2.31 grams
Hallucinogens	2676.3 various
Stimulants	1151.69 dosage units
Depressants	2633.5 dosage units
Cannabis	1329.7 lbs.
Multiple/Other Drugs	621 dos. units & 11.5 grams

<b>Non-Narcotics</b>	<b>Items Seized*</b>	<b>Value*</b>	<b>Items Forfeited**</b>	<b>Value**</b>
Currency	186	\$284,466		\$
Weapons	303	\$182,510		\$
Vehicles	34	\$309,500		\$
Vessels	0	\$0		\$
Real Property	76	\$26,480		\$
Other Items	0	\$0		\$
<b>Total Value</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>\$802,956</b>		<b>\$214,020</b>

\* These columns include items that were seized in FY02 but will not go through forfeiture proceedings until FY 2003.

\*\* These columns include items that were seized in FY01 but did not go through forfeiture proceedings until FY 2002.

<b>Sentencing:</b>	
Sentenced to Prison	240
Sentenced to Jail	133
Receiving Probation Only	217
Receiving Suspended Sentences	39
	629

\* Some of those sentenced in FY 2002 may have been arrested prior to that time. Similarly, this data may not reflect the sentencing status of all those arrested in FY 2002.

## VIOLENT CRIME MULTIJURISDICTIONAL TASK FORCE

<b>Subgrants:</b>	One
<b>Implementing Agencies</b>	Lancaster County Sheriff's Office (Lead Agency). Additional Agencies: Lancaster Police Department
<b>Federal Funds:</b>	\$ 175,438
<b>Match Funds:</b>	\$ 58,478
<b>Authorized Purpose Area:</b>	02b
<b>Year of BJA Program Brief Approval:</b>	FFY 1994

### **Goals/Objectives:**

The basic goal of the Violent Crime Task Force (VCTF) was to forge a coalition between all pertinent federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in order to mount a comprehensive attack on violent crime. The primary objective was to prosecute and convict these criminals in federal court where longer sentences in federal prisons would result. A more specific objective was to pursue a multidisciplinary approach to the investigation of violent criminals by drawing on the particular strengths of each component agency. The benefits of utilizing this approach included: access to federal investigative resources in state and local jurisdictions; uniform statewide prosecution policy and strategy; longer and non-parolable sentences; more federal prison space; statewide pool of jurors; and investigative grand juries. In essence, the VCTF program enhanced existing efforts in enforcement, prosecution and conviction of repeat violent crime offenders through shared critical resources and elimination of jurisdictional problems.

### **Program Activities/Components:**

The Violent Crime Task Force Program was created to target, investigate, indict, prosecute and convict those individuals responsible for repeated violence. This joint federal, state and local multijurisdictional operation was designed to take advantage of legislation allowing the government of the United States to seek significant non-parolable sentences for individuals who were engaged in violent criminal activity. These individuals were prosecuted and convicted in a federal court and sent to a federal prison. As an alternative, where appropriate, defendants were prosecuted in state General Sessions Court. The principle activity of the Task Force officers was to identify and target violent career criminals and violence associated with the illegal narcotics trade by conducting surveillance and undercover operations and street level, historical and money laundering investigations.

### **Performance Measures:**

Performance measures included comparison of current violent crime arrests to past arrest figures, an assessment of all charges brought against offenders and their disposition data, and identification of repeat violent offenders involved in drugs and violent crime. The number of cases brought to the federal level for prosecution was documented, and records were kept regarding specialized training received by task force agents.

### **Progress and Accomplishments:**

- The VCTF developed and maintained a task force agreement between local, state and federal agencies that defined the role of the VCTF and the level of participation of each agency. As a result, the task force experienced high levels of cooperation between the participating law enforcement agencies and investigations were not hindered by local or county boundaries. This afforded the task forces increased resources and the ability to track offenders moving between jurisdictions.
- Task force officers were able to use a variety of means to successfully identify individuals for investigation. One of the most common involved working with the S.C. Department of Probation, Pardon and Parole Services to recognize recently released violent offenders and those who had violated their parole. Copies of all incident reports pertaining to violent crimes were reviewed to determine if they met VCTF criteria, and criminal history checks were run on offenders arrested for crimes committed with firearms. Other resources for identifying targets included Clerks of Court, County Magistrates, Solicitor's Offices, local law enforcement agencies and confidential informants.
- By working closely with the U.S. Attorney's Office, many cases were brought to the federal level in hopes of receiving faster dispositions and harsher sentences. During FY 2002, 69 individuals were arrested on federal charges including Armed Drug Trafficking, Felon Possessing Firearm, Federal Drug Trafficking, and Career Offender. Twenty-six individuals were indicted with 24 convictions by the end of the grant year. On the state level, there were 691 arrests and 147 convictions for such crimes as Kidnapping, Aggravated Assault, Forcible Rape, Armed Robbery and multiple drug offenses.
- The task force investigated 72 cases involving pistols and 8 involving shotguns. Additionally, 21 pounds of marijuana, 6,830 marijuana plants, 1138 grams of crack and amounts of cocaine and other drugs were confiscated.
- Each member of the Task Force participated in at least two training courses during the year. These classes served to increase the agents' investigative abilities by covering areas such as Informant Management, Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, Undercover Drug and Interviews and Interrogations.



## COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING

<b>Subgrants:</b>	One
<b>Implementing Agency:</b>	Fairfield County Sheriff's Office
<b>Federal Funds:</b>	\$ 71,175
<b>Match Funds:</b>	\$ 23,724
<b>Authorized Purpose Area:</b>	04
<b>Year of BJA Program Approval:</b>	FFY 1996

### Goals/Objectives:

The goal of the Community-Oriented Policing (COP) project was to implement a dominant philosophy or management style throughout the law enforcement agency that involved the community in a partnership to more effectively fight crime and disorder. This approach was used to identify police and community priorities and focus on finding a more effective method of solving problems. The objective of the COP project was to create a target-specific approach that addressed the problems within the community that caused incidents of crime to occur.

### Program Activities/Components:

This project focused on directly involving the community as partners in the process of identifying, prioritizing and solving the problems that cause crime. This approach led to personalizing law enforcement services and breaking down the anonymity that existed between law enforcement officers and community members. The law enforcement agency looked for ways to balance reactive responses to incidents of crime with a proactive focus on preventing them from occurring. Community leaders, local government officials and law enforcement officers met to identify community problems and address these problems through activities that built a relationship between the law enforcement agency and the community based on mutual respect, trust and support.

### Performance Measures:

To assess the performance of this project, the strategic plan, activities and accomplishments of the leadership council, and the effectiveness of agency patrol techniques were reviewed and evaluated. Evidence of change in the organizational structure and mission, records of planned and accomplished COP training, and a discussion of revised beat boundaries were used to assess the extent to which COP had become an integral part of the law enforcement agency. In addition, an appraisal of identified and addressed community problems, a record of how calls-for-service were prioritized and managed, and an assessment of the agency's working relationship with other municipal or county agencies were used to demonstrate how COP was

being used as a community-wide program, rather than just a law enforcement effort.

### **Progress and Accomplishments:**

- An officer continued to be assigned to each of two zones within the county in the third year of the grant. This allowed these officers to develop and maintain relationships with the community members and address specific problems in their assigned areas.
- The leadership council, formed in the first year of the grant, and COP officers continued to meet monthly to discuss community needs and concerns. The group has been especially helpful in passing on drug information to the Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit.
- The COP officers helped in the organization of crime watch programs in different areas of the county. They attended meetings to listen to the groups' concerns and keep members apprised of what could and had been done to remedy the community problems. The officers have also attended County Council and Town Council meetings to help address some of the problems.
- The COP officers used various models implemented by the Carolinas Institute for Community Policing to develop one-on-one partnerships with the citizens. They also attended community events and made presentations in neighborhoods and schools.
- Because the COP officers answered directly to the Chief Deputy, they operated outside the standard chain of command and were encouraged to generate innovative responses to neighborhood problems and concerns. During monthly meetings with the Chief Deputy, the officers were made aware of feedback received from the community directly or through other officers in the department.
- Drug activity is still a concern of many citizens. The COP officers continue to work with the citizens to pass on relevant information to the department's Narcotics Unit. In addition, a countywide ordinance regarding litter control was enacted after citizens' concerns about littering, illegal dumping and uncovered truckloads were expressed to the County Council.
- Each grant-funded COP officer attended trainings that focused on the philosophy of community-oriented policing as well as criminal domestic violence, which continued to be one of the major calls for service in the county.
- The COP officers endeavored to coordinate their efforts to address community problems, not only with residents, but with other agencies, civic and county officials, the business community and the media. This included their involvement in homeowner associations, Boy Scout activities, Sistercare, Council on Aging, and church group activities during the grant year to promote pro law enforcement issues. The COP officers also worked with the South Carolina Highway Patrol, Winnsboro Department of Public Safety, Chester Police Department, Great Falls Police Department, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

- Although this is the last year of grant funding, the COP program will be continued and expanded.

## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

<b>Subgrants:</b>	Seventeen
<b>Implementing Agencies:</b>	Anderson County Sheriff's Office Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office Florence County Sheriff's Office Kershaw County Sheriff's Office (2) Pickens County Sheriff's Office Saluda County Sheriff's Office Beaufort Police Department Clinton Police Department Elgin Police Department Georgetown Police Department Holly Hill Police Department Lake City Police Department Laurens Police Department Liberty Police Department Mount Pleasant Police Department Sumter Police Department
<b>Federal Funds:</b>	\$ 939,052
<b>Match Funds:</b>	\$ 313,013
<b>Authorized Purpose Area:</b>	04b
<b>Year of BJA Program Brief Approval:</b>	FFY 1994

### Goals/Objectives:

The goal of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program was to bridge the gap between police officers and adolescents in order to increase positive attitudes toward law enforcement and reduce juvenile crime through counseling, teaching about the criminal justice system and taking a personal interest in the students. The objectives of this project focused on maintaining a safe and secure environment on the school campus which would then be conducive to an educationally stimulating atmosphere, prevent criminal activities and disturbances, and promote positive attitudes regarding the role of police in society.

### Program Activities/Components:

School Resource Officers were chosen specifically for their professional abilities, desire to work with students and potential to be positive role models. Each SRO maintained a professional appearance, was visible, accessible, and willing to talk to the students, and attended and participated in school activities. This program relied heavily on positive interaction with the students and the community, formation of a positive, working relationship with the students' parents through attendance at PTA meetings and parent conferences, and development of a

relationship with the faculty and school administrators. The SRO gathered intelligence on gang activity, juvenile crimes and truants. The SRO also functioned as an educator and resource to the school faculty through development and presentation of lessons on law-related topics. The SRO's office served as a resource center that provided information on topics ranging from date rape to drug abuse. Throughout the school year, the SRO served as a counselor who listened to students' problems and worked with them to find positive solutions. The SRO also responded to requests from the community regarding truants, drug activity, traffic problems, thefts, etc. In total, the SRO program worked toward preventing juvenile delinquency while creating favorable student/police officer relationships.

### **Performance Measures:**

For first year projects, program achievement was indicated by evidence of a positive working relationship between the school district and the law enforcement agency. All projects provided information on the law-related courses taught by the SRO and the SRO's teaching techniques, the officer's participation in extracurricular activities, and the number of on-campus incidents (substance abuse and/or possession, fighting, weapons possession, theft, vandalism, harassment, etc.) compared with those from the previous year. Each project completed a self-evaluation that discussed meetings held with faculty, students and parents, assessed student attitudes toward law enforcement, and provided an overview of referral services provided by the SRO.

### **Progress and Accomplishments:**

- In FY 2002, there were 24 SRO positions funded in school districts throughout the state. To clearly delineate the responsibilities of all concerned parties, each program maintained an agreement between their school district and law enforcement agency that was signed by the superintendent and sheriff or chief of police.
- Attending at least two training courses during FY 2002 helped each grant-funded SRO respond to problems in the schools and effectively communicate with students. Courses included Crisis Planning; Juvenile Procedures; Gang Migration; Interviewing Juvenile Victims; Aggressors, Victims and Bystanders; Gangs and School Violence; Special Needs Youth; Bomb Threat Management; Trends in Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Abuse; and Communicating and Negotiating with Parents. Many of the SROs were also able to attend training at both the state and national School Resource Officer Association conferences.
- Students in most schools received law-related education from the SROs to assist them in learning about the criminal justice system, inform them of their rights as lawful citizens, and emphasize that they are responsible for their own actions. Some of the general topics covered were drug awareness, constitutional law, property crimes, and bullying and harassment. Many SROs used either the Street Law or Community Works curriculum for lesson plans and several used the fatal vision goggles in their classes on drug and alcohol use. Many of the SROs were very creative and incorporated their presentations into courses such as math, physical science and psychology. Some conducted mock trials. On occasion, law enforcement officers from agencies such as the S. C. Highway Patrol and the Department of Juvenile Justice as well as narcotics detectives, assistant solicitors and traffic enforcement personnel were brought in as guest speakers.

- The SROs' effects on criminal incidents on school campuses were seen as very positive. Their presence and patrolling of the facilities were viewed as deterrents against such activity and being on-hand provided an immediate police response to all serious violations. After the SRO program has been established in a school, the numbers of crimes often appear to increase. However, rather than an actual rise in offenses, this has been viewed to be a result of the SROs providing improved investigations and their influencing students to speak out about occurrences that had previously gone unreported.
- To address the possibility of juvenile gang activity and gang-related graffiti in and around the schools, lesson plans specific to gang awareness were developed and presented to students, parents and faculty members. However, some felt that the information would only serve to spur interest in gang behavior if none had previously been observed. Fortunately, most of the subgrantees reporting indications of gangs mainly classified them as loosely organized and involving more posturing than actual unlawful activity.
- Crime prevention on school grounds continued to be a concern for SROs. To decrease the opportunity for incidents, physical surveys were conducted and corrective actions such as installing extra lighting and video cameras in problem areas were taken when budgets allowed. The use of student and faculty identification cards made it easier to identify strangers on campus. SROs also played an integral part in establishing and maintaining Crime Stoppers programs and "hotlines" to encourage students and staff to anonymously report crimes committed or about to occur. Several SROs participated in fingerprinting and photographing children for parents in their communities.
- Maintaining offices in their respective schools allowed SROs to be more accessible to talk with students as well as parents and faculty members. Students in particular took advantage of this resource and received helpful advice on subjects ranging from personal problems to drug use and law-related issues. To further aid the students, each officer had on-hand a list of agencies in the community that could provide more specialized assistance. Many of the SROs worked in conjunction with school guidance counselors to refer students to appropriate agencies for assistance.
- The SROs also provided instruction to school staff both to familiarize them with the SRO's role and responsibilities and how to deal with problems that might arise at the school. Conflict Resolution, Detection of Gang Paraphernalia, Juvenile Justice System, Drug Recognition, Crisis Response, Search and Seizure, and Gang Awareness were just a few of the subjects covered by the officers. In some instances, the SROs worked with administrators to develop procedures for fire drills and emergency situations. Many of the SROs were incorporated into the school's disaster emergency plans.
- The SROs also cross-trained fellow officers in their agencies about the School Resource Officer program. This was accomplished primarily through departmental meetings and videos. Some agencies even fully trained additional officers to serve as reserve SROs or be positioned at other schools in the district.
- To augment building relationships with students and instill in them respect for law enforcement officers, the SROs organized or participated in activities after school. Their attendance at sporting events and coaching for varsity and junior varsity teams also served

to maintain order and deter criminal incidents. With the SROs' assistance, proactive organizations such as SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere), SADD (Students Against Drunk Drivers), Explorers and Youth Court worked to instill pride and self-determination and promote academics among the students. SROs in one school district took part in the FACES program sponsored by a federal grant to the school district. Through the program, the SROs worked with students after school and during the summer and presented information on various life skills topics.

- Interaction with students outside of the school carried over into the summer months as well. During July and August of 2002 and June of 2003, many SROs took part in day camps and YMCA/YWCA activities. An example of this was Camp PRIDE, which targeted multicultural at-risk youth ages 12 to 16 and focused on problem solving skills, alcohol and drug resistance techniques, self-esteem development and the value of teamwork. Some the officers remained on campus to perform their regular duties during sessions of summer school, while others patrolled recreation centers, public swimming pools, malls and other areas of their jurisdiction that were popular with students.
- Television news programs and local and school newspapers gave positive exposure to the SRO program. The articles and stories discussed the officers, the reasons for their being stationed in the schools, and how their work has resulted in schools being safer for students and faculty alike.
- FY 2002 was the final year of federal support for six SRO programs. As in previous years, most of the officers will continue in the schools through local funding sources.



## IMPROVE EFFECTIVENESS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

<b>Subgrants:</b>	Four
<b>Implementing Agencies:</b>	South Carolina Department of Corrections: Drug Interdiction Enhancement South Carolina Department of Public Safety- Criminal Justice Academy Division: Advanced Drug Enforcement Distance Learning Training South Carolina Department of Public Safety- Highway Patrol: Law Enforcement Executive Institute State Law Enforcement Division (SLED): High Tech Crime Unit
<b>Federal Funds:</b>	\$ 463,703
<b>Match Funds:</b>	\$ 154,716
<b>Authorized Purpose Area:</b>	07a
<b>Year of BJA Program Brief Approval:</b>	FFY 1989

### Goals/Objectives:

The general goal of these projects was to improve response to crime problems on a statewide basis by increasing the operational effectiveness of local and state law enforcement agencies. The Drug Interdiction Enhancement program concentrated on increasing the effectiveness of detection of drugs coming into state correctional institutions and coordinating with local law enforcement agencies near institution sites regarding trends and ongoing drug activity in the local communities. Providing specialized training with high-tech equipment for law enforcement officers across the state was the focal point of the grant awarded to the state's Criminal Justice Academy. Creation of the Law Enforcement Executive Institute was intended to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement executives/managers through a management level training course in collaboration with leaders in higher education. The High Tech Crime Unit's primary focus was improving the quality of internet and computer crime cases by providing assistance to other agencies through the use of new, state-of-the-art equipment and advanced training.

### Program Activities/Components:

The Drug Interdiction Enhancement provided increased detection of drugs coming into the state's correctional institutions by visitors, employees and inmates, accomplished in part through targeting institutions with high positive drug tests. Increased coordination with local law enforcement agencies near institution sites allowed the interdiction team to recognize trends and ongoing drug activity in the community that could be linked to drug activity in the

institutions. Videoconferencing of law enforcement courses was achieved by setting up specially equipped classrooms at the Criminal Justice Academy (CJA) in Columbia and satellite sites under the Distance Learning program. This allowed for greater dissemination of law enforcement training throughout the state while reducing training costs for CJA and law enforcement agencies. The Law Enforcement Executive Institute was to be established through a partnership with a local university to provide a management level training course targeting upper level management of law enforcement agencies statewide. An oversight committee would assist in the development and operation of the Institute and an outside evaluation would be conducted to assess the development and implementation of this program. The High Tech Crime Unit established standardized procedures to collect computer evidence and provide forensic examination of seized computers and evidence to assist federal, state and local agencies. Standardized training in the investigation of high tech and computer crimes and how they interrelate in other crimes was developed.

### **Performance Measures:**

The Drug Interdiction Team collected data on the types and amounts of drugs detected, numbers and types of resulting charges and persons involved- visitor, employee or inmate. They also documented positive drug tests per institution/geographic area and provided an organizational chart showing K-9 Team assignments per quarter. All contacts with local law enforcement agencies were recorded and information on drug activity trends was reported. The Distance Learning program documented all activity during the installation stages of new sites. Records were maintained of all classes conducted including titles of classes, dates conducted and numbers of attendees. To document the establishment of the Law Enforcement Executive Institute, a policy and procedures manual was to be developed to include the structure of the Institute, curriculum, admissions and selection criteria for participants, and how participant progress would be assessed. An oversight committee was to be established to assist in the development and operation of the Institute. An outside evaluation was to be conducted to assess the development and implementation of the Institute to include a description of the successes and recommendations for the continued improvement of the program. The High Tech Crime Unit maintained data on the number of investigations initiated by SLED and those in which they were asked to assist. Information on the types of crimes involved was also documented. Records of public awareness presentations and training either provided to other agencies or received by members of the Unit were maintained. Standardized procedures to collect computer evidence and provide forensic examination of computers and evidence seized were disseminated to local law enforcement agencies via SLED's web site.

### **Progress and Accomplishments:**

#### Drug Interdiction Enhancement:

- There were 75 persons charged with drug violations during this grant year. This included 40 visitors, 11 employees and 24 inmates.
- Marijuana and crack continue to be the drugs of choice within the institutions. Although it has been reported that Ecstasy and PCP have been brought in, none has been seized.

- Utilizing drug dogs, the Drug Interdiction Team targeted institutions with the highest positive drug test results. They also conducted interdiction efforts based on information relayed to them by agency personnel, visitors, inmates and concerned citizens. Narcotics seizures are shown in the chart below.

<b>Narcotics Seizures</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Cocaine	131.1 grams
Crack	10.4 grams
Cannabis	6 lbs 15 oz.
Methamphetamine	5.5 grams
Vicodin	6 pills
Zanax	106 pills
Unknown drugs	26 pills

- During the past year, two local police departments, three county Sheriff's Offices, SLED, federal authorities and postal inspectors have been involved with several drug investigations that were initiated by the interdiction teams. One of the investigations resulted in \$14,351 being seized from an inmate involved in money laundering.
- The recent trend has been smuggling of cell phones into the institutions. Drug dealers are paying \$100 per phone brought in, some by employees to make easy money.
- Members of the Interdiction Team attended the International Chiefs of Police K-9 Conference and the National Narcotic Drug Dog Conference.

#### Advanced Drug Enforcement Distance Learning Training:

- During the second year, distance learning satellite sites were added in Greenville and York counties. The equipment was installed but no classes were taught at those sites before the end of the grant year. Due to the small classroom size, the York site will only be a receiving site while the Greenville site will be both a teaching and receiving site.
- Two additional control units were purchased to be used for backup and training. One unit was placed in the CJA conference room to allow viewing of instructors teaching and enable the conference room to be used as an alternate classroom. The other unit will be used by the Information Resource Consultant to check the sites and provide backup.
- CJA instructors and staff have been trained in the use of the distance learning system. Adjunct instructors from the FBI, University of South Carolina and other law enforcement agencies have also trained to become familiar with the video conferencing equipment.

- The first video-conference training took place on August 28, 2002, initiated from the Columbia (CJA) site with students also at the Myrtle Beach site. Students at each site could view the instructor and other class. Students at the Myrtle Beach site could interact directly with the CJA class, asking questions and making comments.
- A total of eight classes on seven different topics were held this year with a total of 128 students at the CJA site and 135 at the Myrtle Beach site. The courses taught were Controlled Substance Identification, Criminal Gang Investigations, Officer Survival, CDV in Other Populations, Child Custody, Full Faith and Credit and Interpersonal Communication Skills. Two other scheduled classes were cancelled: one because of low numbers and the other due to the loss of a CJA instructor.

#### High Tech Crime Unit:

- In the third year of the High Tech Crime Unit, there were 590 cyber-crime investigations initiated by SLED and 218 in which SLED assisted other agencies. In addition, there were 346 requests for information or technical assistance and 4,224 forensic examinations of evidence.
- Although there were a wide range of crimes investigated in which the computer was instrumental, the most predominant continued to be Internet child pornography.
- Unit members attended training on On-line Child Pornography and Sexual Exploitation. Two members also met with the New York Electronic Crimes Task Force.
- The High Tech Crime Unit conducted 18 in-service trainings on computer investigation during the year with 675 agents attending. Training was also provided to 22 other agencies with a total of 832 attendees. Public awareness programs regarding the danger of Internet-based crimes were also conducted to various groups.
- Representatives from the High Tech Crime Unit provided instruction in the Basic Detective class at the state's Criminal Justice Academy. These classes included information on the proper procedures and methods for the collection of evidence and examination of forensic evidence where a computer is the facilitator or target of a crime.
- The Secret Service has designated the Computer Crime Center (CCC) as an Electronic Crimes Task Force (ECTF), one of only thirteen in the country and the only one not managed by the Secret Service on a day to day basis. Representatives from six different states have visited the CCC to view the facility and operation in an effort to replicate it in their respective jurisdictions.

#### Law Enforcement Executive Institute:

- Although the subgrantee made several attempts at coordinating an acceptable contract with the local university to establish the Law Enforcement Executive Institute, there were obstacles difficult to overcome within the grant period to ensure the program's success.

- Additionally, the subgrantee agency was faced with several large budget cuts during the grant year. The continuation of the agency's basic mission was deemed more important than providing match funds for the Institute at this time. Once state budget funds are healthier, the subgrantee plans to reconsider trying to establish this worthwhile program.

## **IMPROVING OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS OF COURT PROCESS BY EXPANDING PROSECUTORIAL RESOURCES**

<b>Subgrants:</b>	Two
<b>Implementing Agencies:</b>	First Circuit Solicitor's Office: Drug Crimes Prosecuting Unit Seventh Circuit Solicitor's Office: Violent Crime Prosecution Team
<b>Federal Funds:</b>	\$ 171,543
<b>Match Funds:</b>	\$ 57,179
<b>Authorized Purpose Area:</b>	10a
<b>Year of BJA Program Brief Approval:</b>	FFY 1993

### **Goals/Objectives:**

The goal of this program to improve court effectiveness was to reduce the overall backlog in the court system and achieve higher conviction rates by aggressive prosecution of adult violators of drug and violent crime laws with the addition of equipment and resources to more effectively manage caseloads. Each project was assigned one assistant solicitor whose time was devoted 100 percent to either the prosecution of violent or drug crime cases. The objectives of the Prosecution Teams were to coordinate more closely with law enforcement agencies and build stronger cases by advising law enforcement officers on the legal aspects of each case.

### **Program Activities/Components:**

A full-time prosecutor was assigned to each of the prosecution teams to gather and process information for violent and drug crime cases. The Violent Crime Prosecution Team also included an investigator and legal secretary. As a result, each team was able to research, prepare, and present cases in a timely manner. The prosecution units assisted local law enforcement in violent and drug crime-related cases and provided training on court procedure, preparation for court, and updates on changes in the laws pertaining to these crimes. The prosecutors conducted routine meetings with local law enforcement representatives to update

them on changes in the law and provided training on the preparation of cases prior to arrest, assuring them of a higher conviction rate when the cases were brought to court.

### **Performance Measures:**

Both prosecution units maintained logs relating to their operations, recorded disposition data and the number of cases made, warrants handled, and seizures and forfeitures processed. The prosecutors documented their caseloads and compared this information with previous years.

### **Progress and Accomplishments:**

#### Drug Crime Prosecuting Unit:

- During the first year of this program, the prosecutor was assigned all drug cases including over 100 old cases. He reviewed each file to determine what further investigation or evidence was needed, to make appropriate plea offers or schedule cases for trial.
- The backlog of cases was reduced from 186 cases to 140 cases. The average age of pending cases from date of arrest was reduced from 203 days to 159 days. During the year, the prosecutor initiated drug related seizure/forfeiture proceedings on approximately \$77,000 in cash and property.
- The prosecutor extensively researched all areas of case law relating to narcotics prosecution in South Carolina including search and seizure. Because the bulk of drug cases were results of traffic stops, the prosecutor compiled a manual on Traffic Stops, Search and Seizure. Copies of the manual were provided to the narcotics divisions of all the law enforcement agencies in the jurisdiction.

#### Violent Crime Prosecution Unit:

- In its second year, the Violent Crime Prosecution Team (VCPT) reported that not only have they helped ease the burden of the other attorneys in the office, but, more importantly, they have increased the quality of the violent crime cases prosecuted. A number of cases prepared for trial have resulted in guilty pleas and trials ending in convictions have resulted in more severe sentences.
- Allowing violent crime cases to be disposed of in a more efficient and timely manner has reduced case backlog and moved some cases more quickly with some reduction in the jail population. Reducing the time it takes for a case to reach prosecution has also aided the victims who deal with the stress and burdens of lengthy trial preparation and court time.
- A total of 230 indictments reached final disposition in FY 2002, leaving 28 pending. Some of the cases reaching disposition involved Kidnapping, Criminal Domestic Violence of a High and Aggravated Nature, Assault and Battery with Intent to Kill, Burglary, Discharging a Firearm into a Dwelling and Armed Robbery. Sentences included Life-Without-Parole in two cases, one life sentence and a range of ten to twenty-eight years in several other cases.

- Training attended by grant-funded personnel included seminars on topics such as Prosecuting Homicide Cases, Career Prosecutor, and Criminal Domestic Violence. Additionally, the grant-funded solicitor attended the state Solicitor's Conference where training in a variety of areas was received.

## **ADULT DRUG COURT PROGRAM**

<b>Subgrants:</b>	Two
<b>Implementing Agencies:</b>	Seventh Circuit Solicitor's Office Sixteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office
<b>Federal Funds:</b>	\$ 251,039
<b>Match Funds:</b>	\$ 83,682
<b>Authorized Purpose Area:</b>	10e
<b>Year of BJA Program Brief Approval:</b>	FFY 1997

### **Goals/Objectives:**

The goal of these court delay reduction programs was to improve the efficiency of the court system by creating and maintaining a successful Drug Court. The objectives of the programs were to divert cases normally processed through General Sessions Court to an alternate venue for faster disposition; reduce caseloads through rapid disposition of less severe cases; reduce the incarceration time of offenders awaiting disposition of court cases; provide intensive drug treatment options and improve communication among all elements of the court system.

### **Program Activities/Components:**

Assistant solicitors acted as liaisons between detention facility personnel, the Magistrate's Court, the Clerk of Court and the Public Defender's office to develop Drug Courts to reduce demand on the General Sessions Court. Swift representation of defendants after their arrest, deadlines for release of discovery material and plea negotiations, pre-trial conferences, and scheduling of hearings for legal motions were addressed. Cases to be moved to Drug Court were determined by weighing the charges and complexity of each case as soon as possible. At Drug Court roll calls, defendants were told of the process and their rights and options commensurate with the venue change. Defendants who were incarcerated while awaiting a

court appearance (due to failure to make bond or failure to appear at an earlier date) received priority court time in order to alleviate overcrowding in county detention centers.

### **Performance Measures:**

Records were maintained of the number of cases assigned to and disposed of by both the Drug and General Sessions Courts. A comparison was then made of dispositional data from the year prior to grant implementation. Efforts taken to ensure cases were handled within a given time frame were documented and data was analyzed to determine how quickly warrants were disposed of through the Drug Court. Data were collected regarding drug testing, drug treatment and recidivism rates. The length of defendant incarceration prior to disposition was used to show the affect on cases transferred from the General Sessions Court.

### **Progress and Accomplishments:**

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Solicitor's Office:

- The 7th Circuit's Drug Court provided treatment to 60 participants through group counseling, family therapy and, in some instances, inpatient treatment. In addition, each participant is required to attend an Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous meeting.
- Random drug testing is conducted using both urinalysis and breathalyzer testing. Results so far indicate that 92 percent have been negative.
- Each client receives a participant handbook that outlines the phases of the program and the criteria for progression through the phases.
- The Drug Court Coordinator attended the South Carolina Drug Court Conference.
- Because the program is an eighteen month program, there has been only one graduate during the grant period. However, there were three additional graduates within one month of the end of the grant. This program will be continued with local government funding.

#### 16<sup>th</sup> Circuit Solicitor's Office:

- During this first two years of operation, 64 defendants were accepted into the Drug Court program. Forty are currently in various phases of the four-phase, sixteen to eighteen month program. Twelve participants have graduated and another twelve have been terminated for various reasons.
- Eight of the current participants are working toward their GED, a requirement for their graduation from the Drug Court program. Four more participants will begin working toward their GED when they enter Phase III.
- Drug Court personnel have found that chemically addicted persons typically have a multitude of other problems in areas such as relationships, finances, parenting skills, housing, employment and education stemming from their addiction. Intensive monitoring

and addressing individual needs reinforces the success of participants.

- Drug Court personnel attended training during the year to enhance their expertise. Some of the training topics included Basic and Advanced Counseling Techniques, HIV Education and Skill Building for AOD Counselors. Personnel also attended both the state and national Drug Court conferences.

## **TECHNOLOGY AND FORENSIC CRIME LAB UPGRADE**

<b>Subgrants:</b>	Six
<b>Implementing Agencies:</b>	Aiken County Sheriff's Office Anderson County Detention Center Beaufort County Sheriff's Office Horry County Police Department Lexington County Sheriff's Office Richland County Sheriff's Office
<b>Federal Funds:</b>	\$ 738,431
<b>Match Funds:</b>	\$ 246,145
<b>Authorized Purpose Area:</b>	15a
<b>Year of BJA Program Brief Approval:</b>	FFY 1989

### **Goals/Objectives:**

The broad goal of this program was to increase the ability to solve crime by providing sufficient, modern laboratory equipment, laboratory facilities and other technology to rapidly analyze evidence and return accurate results to requesting agencies. The objectives of this program included: substantial reduction of drug analysis backlog and turnaround time that, in turn, would improve drug disposition rates for law enforcement agencies and judicial circuit solicitor's offices; improvement in drug test results' reliability through state-of-the-art technology; and increased knowledge of laboratory technicians through training in current technology and procedures.

### **Performance Activities/Components:**

Four law enforcement agencies continued operation of their drug analysis laboratories and two others established labs to provide timely analysis of narcotics samples. With additional equipment, the laboratory criminalists processed cases and were available to testify in court on short notice. They also attended training to improve their knowledge in the area of drug testing.

### **Performance Measures:**

In the drug analysis laboratories, progress was assessed keeping track of the average time to complete drug analysis cases, types of drugs analyzed and the total number of cases completed. Other key areas documented included each criminalist's response time to court proceedings, reliance on the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) for additional testing and the number of individuals in the chain of evidence for drugs submitted to the laboratory.

### **Progress and Accomplishments:**

- The four existing drug analysis laboratories continued to do well during their second and third years of grant funding.
  - The chemists in the four labs completed 3,809 positive and 84 negative analyses. Of those, 442 were for other local agencies. The time to complete an analysis report has been reduced to an average of two weeks and none of the agencies is currently submitting evidence from drug cases to SLED for analysis.
  - Although crack and cocaine continue to lead the types of drugs analyzed, methamphetamine is becoming more and more common. All the chemists have had calls to the site of clandestine methamphetamine labs. One grant funded lab has identified several new designer drugs including benzylpiperazine (BZP). This is believed to be the first known and identified BZP exhibit in the state of South Carolina.
  - One of the chemists is certified by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) as a clandestine lab investigator capable of crime scene processing, investigation and evidence analysis. His response to 88 clandestine lab crime scenes requiring evidence analysis allowed potentially deadly crime scenes to be properly cleaned up in a fast and efficient manner.
  - Two of the chemists have provided training for the state's law enforcement training academy and in-service for their local law enforcement agencies in the areas of Drug Recognition, Clandestine Laboratory Recognition and Safety, and Evidence Preservation.
  - One of the labs was awarded the 2002 J. Mitchell Graham Award by the South Carolina Association of Counties for excellence in county government projects. In addition, another lab's technician received the FBI's J. Edgar Hoover Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement for her work in transforming a defunct photo lab into a state of the art drug lab and clearing an analysis backlog of 300 cases.
- One of the two new drug analysis laboratories had received most of its equipment but was

not fully operational by the end of the grant year. The chemist was training with SLED to complete certification requirements.

- The other new drug analysis laboratory became operational March 1, 2003.
  - The chemist reported 451 positive and 48 negative analyses after the lab became operational. This included backlogged cases retrieved from SLED and evidence from three other area agencies. The largest numbers of positive results were for cocaine and crack followed by methamphetamine and prescription drugs.
  - The number of persons in the chain of evidence custody has been reduced to three and the average time to complete a drug analysis report was two weeks.
  - The chemist attended two training seminars concerning the testing of narcotics.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

<b>Subgrants:</b>	Eight
<b>Implementing Agencies:</b>	South Carolina Judicial Department: Court System Efficiency Improvements South Carolina Department of Corrections: Centralized Jail Management System South Carolina Department of Natural Resources: NCIC 2000 System Upgrade Florence County Sheriff's Office: LIVE SCAN/AFIS Interface Project Greenwood Police Department: NCIC 2000 System Upgrade McCormick Police Department: Records System Improvement Mount Pleasant Police Department: NCIC 2000 System Upgrade Springdale Police Department: Records Management System
<b>Federal Funds:</b>	\$ 1,189,990
<b>Match Funds:</b>	\$ 396,901
<b>Authorized Purpose Area:</b>	15b
<b>Year of BJA Program Brief Approval:</b>	FFY 1989

### **Goals/Objectives:**

The goal of the criminal justice information system programs was to improve the completeness, accuracy and timeliness of criminal history records information at the S.C. Central Criminal Records Repository (CRR) located within the S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED). The plan to improve the state's criminal justice records and to meet the five-percent set-aside waiver requirements was an important goal in consideration of projects funded during FY 2002. Priority was given to those projects that would help the state meet the waiver requirements and then to those that would enhance the overall efficiency, timeliness and completeness of the criminal records system. The objectives focused on improvements throughout the entire spectrum of criminal history records. This included projects to achieve the following: enhance access of law enforcement agencies to criminal history records information; develop the capability to electronically report criminal record dispositions to the state repository; improve identification of offenders through latent fingerprints collected at crime scenes via Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS); improve upon the quality of inked fingerprint cards; and decrease the time it takes to fingerprint a suspect and allow for the electronic transmission of prints to SLED.

### **Program Activities/Components:**

The state's Department of Corrections received funding to continue redevelopment of a centralized jail management database. Through modifications to the program, they worked to expand the fields of information that could be captured, improve submission of current, accurate records from local jails and detention centers, and enhance law enforcement personnel's ability to search and use the data. The state's Judicial Department continued a major initiative to establish or enhance network connectivity within the state's forty-six county Clerk of Court offices and county magistrate offices. This included providing the offices with computers, software and training to improve their efficiency and professionalism. One project funded the integration of the agency's jail management system with SLED so fingerprint and other criminal booking information could be electronically transmitted via their LIVESCAN device. Four police departments and one state agency purchased equipment permitting either access to criminal history records information in SLED's database or computerization of records that in turn helped reduce backlogs, improved efficiency, and allowed electronic submission of data to SLED.

### **Performance Measures:**

The Department of Corrections documented the integrity and comprehensiveness of data by quantifying the percentages of jails transmitting data and the extent that offenders can be tracked across jurisdictions. They compared jail population statistics with manually reported figures and tracked admissions and associated releases of individual offenders. Progress toward solving identified procedural and technical issues was documented. A project plan for pilot testing an objective classification system and a strategy for linking the Jail Information System to other criminal justice databases was to be developed. The Judicial Department maintained records of the purchase and distribution of computers and software. They also provided information on training conducted with personnel from the various Clerk of Court offices. Feedback from the Clerk of Court offices was received detailing how this project had improved their efficiency. The LIVESCAN integration project was to document the process as well as collect data on the time to fingerprint a subject both before and after the interface and keep records on the number of cards rejected by SLED. Two projects involving computerization of records maintained data on improved accuracy of records, timeliness of reports, and improved efficiency of operations. Three projects kept records of their requests for information once they attained access to the SLED criminal history records database.

### **Progress and Accomplishments:**

- The South Carolina Judicial Department (SCJD) initiative provided reliable information technology systems on which to build, improved efficiency in day-to-day operations by automating processes and improved both education and technology within the forty-six county Clerk of Court offices. The initiative also began expanding this technology to the magistrate court level.
  - At the end of the second grant year, 43 of 46 county courthouses and Clerks of Court had reliable, high-speed internet connectivity with the remaining three in

process. Routine correspondence and reports are being completed using e-mail and the web.

- Through their website, SCJD now provides court calendars, assignments, reports, procedure manuals and forms. This has resulted in both cost savings through a reduction of paper and postage costs and enhanced availability of accurate information to judicial personnel.
  - SCJD is now viewed as a leader in the state in technology use. The Chief Justice has been recognized nationally as one of the 25 most influential people with technology in government this year by Government Technology magazine. She will also serve as the keynote speaker at the Court Technology Conference sponsored by the National Center for State Courts.
  - The statewide court case management effort will bring consistency to court processes and procedures. Court rules and procedures established decades ago when computer technology was nonexistent are being re-examined. A pilot project to implement the system in the Circuit and Magistrate Courts is in the final stages of completion before the statewide rollout begins. Nearly all of the counties are making efforts to upgrade their magistrate court computer systems in anticipation of the new system.
  - The direct electronic interface between the court case management system (CMS) and SLED is still in progress. SLED went live with the new South Carolina Law Enforcement Message Switch (LEMS) at the end of 2002. Once completed, the court CMS will interface directly with the new LEMS in the traditional NCIC message format and protocol.
  - The South Carolina Department of Corrections and the Clerks of Court are now utilizing e-mail in monitoring the movement of prisoners going to court. On Fridays, SCDC e-mails a list of inmates scheduled to appear in a particular court the next week. At the end of the week, the Clerk of Court e-mails SCDC a short synopsis of whether the hearing was actually held.
- The South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) has been involved in redesigning and expanding a centralized jail management system originally developed by The University of South Carolina's Advanced Solution Group.
- Complete data loads of booking records from two large counties have been sent to SCDC to refresh the current database and help fine tune the new database design. The data is being analyzed to ensure the new database design is flexible enough to contain the data from multiple and sometimes slightly disparate booking applications.
  - Many of the county and local detention centers are beginning to move from the dial-up modem transfer method to the internet based FTP methodology. This allows a much higher speed for data transmission and a lower instance of data

transmission failure. The data transmission changes have been implemented in one county and will be distributed to all sites within the next three months.

- County and local detention centers currently transmit data daily into the database which is useable for search applications but marked unverified. Nightly SLED will transmit FBI/NCIC data on inmates which has been confirmed through fingerprint files. A program will attempt to match the FBI data against the unverified data. When a match occurs, the data will be marked as verified. This will ensure as complete a criminal history on an individual as possible. It will also allow law enforcement easier identification of an individual regardless of the use of alias information.
- A sheriff's office received funding to integrate its jail management system with SLED so fingerprint and other criminal booking information could be electronically transmitted via the LIVESCAN device to SLED/AFIS. An initial delay in project implementation was a result of waiting for SLED to approve the guidelines for the software interface. This has been approved and the necessary T-1line and firewall box have been installed. The project was given an extension for the vendor to complete the interface and begin electronic transmission. Then the subgrantee will be able to document any decrease in time to fingerprint and book arrestees and any reduction in the rejection rate of fingerprint cards.
- Two local police agencies purchased computer equipment and software to improve their records management and electronically submit data to SLED Uniform Crime Reporting. The new systems have given the agencies the capability to provide quality reports, complete paperwork quickly, and provide data concerning logistics, arrests and personal information on suspects. The agencies were also able to meet SLED's mandate that all agencies must submit data electronically by December 2003.
- Three agencies received funding to electronically access SLED's criminal records using NCIC technology. These projects involve approval of software, programming and/or installation of routers, site security surveys, installation of T-1 lines and training of personnel. All three projects are in various stages of completion and the subgrantees have been given extensions to complete the projects.

## INNOVATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS

<b>Subgrants:</b>	Three
<b>Implementing Agency:</b>	South Carolina Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs: Strategic Plan South Carolina Judicial Department: Judicial Enhancement Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office: Crime Prevention Program
<b>Federal Funds:</b>	\$ 356,155 (FY01)
<b>Match Funds:</b>	\$ 118,718 (FY01)
<b>Authorized Purpose Area:</b>	16
<b>Year of BJA Program Approval:</b>	Pending

### Goals/Objectives:

The overall goal of projects under this purpose area was to address crime and violence in our state using new and different approaches to enforcement, prosecution and adjudication. The focus of the Strategic Plan was to reduce violent crime in targeted geographic areas by means of an extraordinarily concentrated and coordinated effort involving all segments of the community over a defined period of time.

### Program Activities/Components:

The consultant continued to work on the action plan in the implementation phase conducting interim evaluations and preparing project reports. In the final phase, the project was evaluated and a final report prepared. Ongoing technical assistance was also provided. In conjunction with the larger project and as one of the recommended implementation measures, the South Carolina Judicial Department received funding to assign a non-rotating judge, and law clerk, for the General Sessions (GS) Court in Orangeburg County. This effort was made in order to bring more rigor to the criminal trial process and to increase the deterrent effect for violent crimes. The judge tried all the cases and increased the terms of court. Additionally, as another part of the overall plan, the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office received grant funds for a crime prevention media project. Radio and television crime stopper segments focused on deterring involvement in drug and violent crimes.

### Performance Measures:

A list of recommended crime reduction measures was developed, moving the project into the

implementation phase. Updates of the overall project progress were presented by the consultant at monthly Coordinating Council meetings. Written reports were completed at several points throughout the process culminating with a final written evaluation. For the Judicial Enhancement component, records were maintained of the number of cases filed, disposed, and pending to document any increase in disposition rate and decrease in the number of pending cases. The Crime Prevention Program documented the number of Crime Stopper's segments aired on the radio and television.

## **Progress and Accomplishments:**

### Strategic Plan

- Justice Planning Associates (JPA), as consultant overseeing the project, continued the implementation and evaluation phases of the project. They determined that the problem was one primarily of culture and attitude best addressed by a focused effort to enhance the traditional mechanisms of deterrence and essentially through the use of existing resources.
- In May, 2003, JPA submitted a statistical evaluation report of the effectiveness of the violent crime reduction effort in Orangeburg County. The report focused on changes in two areas: law enforcement and the trial process and provided a general strategy for reducing violent crime in other South Carolina counties.
- The results of the statistical evaluation indicated that there was a 22 percent decrease in the total number of violent offenses since the inception of the project. There was also an over 44 percent increase in the clearance rate for violent offenses. In addition, the disposition rate increased by 15 percent and the number of pending cases decreased by 31 percent.

### Judicial Enhancement

- A full time, retired circuit court judge was assigned to handle all the cases for Orangeburg County General Sessions Court. A law clerk was also hired to assist the judge. At least three sessions of court were held each month.
- Working with the County Clerk of Court's office, the judge set up a case tracking system that helped reduce the backlog by 250 cases within the first five weeks. All pending cases were placed on the docket management system and roll call was eliminated to reduce postponement of cases. Top priority is given to major cases such as murder, kidnapping and gun-related offenses.
- Under the new system, the judge tentatively assigns a public defender to each defendant at the bond hearing. The defendant must appear before the clerk of court within 48 hours for the formal appointment of a public defender.
- At the second appearance, the defendant is asked to enter a plea. If the plea is not guilty, a trial date is set so everyone involved in the case knows when the case will be tried. If the plea is guilty, the judge hands down the sentence on the spot.

- One significant factor is that the defendant will see the same judge at each appearance. This will help reduce the defendant's ability to "play games" or manipulate the system. Also, under the new system, cases move to disposition faster so the defendant is not out on bail for extended periods of time, possibly committing more crimes.
- An agreement was also reached that allowed the Lexington County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Crime Lab to assist with processing evidence, at no additional cost to Orangeburg County, so criminal cases could be tried in accordance with the time deadlines set in the differentiated case management system.

#### Crime Prevention Program

- Under this program, the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office and Orangeburg Department of Public Safety participated in the Crime Stopper's Program "Orangeburg's Most Wanted" with the cooperative effort of the local media. This program allowed citizens to anonymously provide information to law enforcement about crimes or potential crimes.
- This program also included securing billboard space for messages promoting the fight against drugs and violent crime. The billboards used were located on major traffic arteries within the city and county which are often used by drug traffickers.



## **IMPROVING RESPONSES TO CRIMINAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (CDV), CHILD ABUSE and ELDER ABUSE**

<b>Subgrants:</b>	Eighteen
<b>Implementing Agencies:</b>	<p>Eighth Circuit Solicitor's Office: Child/Elder Abuse Prosecutor</p> <p>Ninth Circuit Solicitor's Office: Child Abuse Investigator</p> <p>Tenth Circuit Solicitor's Office: Child/Elder Abuse Prosecution Team</p> <p>Fifteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office: CDV-Child/Elder Abuse Investigator</p> <p>Beaufort County Sheriff's Office: Child/Elder Abuse Investigator</p> <p>Chester County Sheriff's Office: CDV Investigator</p> <p>Dorchester County Sheriff's Office: CDV Investigator</p> <p>Edgefield County Sheriff's Office: CDV-Child/Elder Abuse Investigator</p> <p>Florence County Sheriff's Office: CDV Investigator</p> <p>Lee County Sheriff's Office: CDV Investigator</p> <p>Anderson Police Department: CDV Investigative Unit</p> <p>Anderson Police Department: Child/Elder Abuse Investigator</p> <p>Conway Police Department: CDV-Child/Elder Abuse Investigator</p> <p>Lake City Police Department: CDV Investigator</p> <p>Lexington Police Department: CDV-Child/Elder Abuse Investigator</p> <p>Moncks Corner Police Department: Child/Elder Abuse Investigator</p> <p>Myrtle Beach Police Department: CDV-Child/Elder Abuse Investigator</p> <p>Pendleton Police Department: Child/Elder Abuse Investigator</p>
<b>Federal Funds:</b>	\$ 1,110,643
<b>Match Funds:</b>	\$ 370,212
<b>Authorized Purpose Area:</b>	18

**Year of BJA Program Brief Approval:**

FY 1993

**Goals/Objectives:**

The primary purpose of this program is to improve investigation and prosecution of cases of child abuse, elder abuse and domestic violence through increased resources, to improve coordination of the various agencies responsible for family welfare, and to increase the number of officers and prosecutors with specialization in these areas. A secondary purpose is to take a proactive stance in an effort to prevent further abuse by raising public awareness regarding these problems. Together, these efforts should then cause a decline in the cases of child abuse, elder abuse, domestic violence and other criminal activity associated with such acts.

**Program Activities/Components:**

Prosecutors dedicated solely to the prosecution of cases involving child and elder abuse continued in two solicitor's offices. One of these was a child/elder prosecution team and included an investigator. A full-time child/elder abuse investigator continued in one law enforcement agency while four agencies created new positions for child/elder abuse investigators. A child abuse investigator position continued in another agency. Six agencies received funding for Criminal Domestic Violence (CDV) Investigators, two new and four continued. Some agencies were unable to support a separate investigator to handle child/elder abuse or CDV cases. Therefore, combination Child/Elder Abuse- CDV Investigator positions were requested at four agencies and one continued at another. All grant-funded personnel received specialized training in courses relevant to their focus area. Reports of criminal domestic violence (CDV) and child/elder abuse were referred to the special investigators and prosecutors who worked closely with other related outside agencies that provided social service, counseling and victim services. Upon receipt of a report, an investigation was initiated with a multidisciplinary approach that included interviews, medical examinations and witness statements. In cases of financial exploitation of the elderly, investigations also included tracking financial and property records. If warranted, charges were filed. The investigators and prosecutors were involved throughout the court process in each case. Contact was maintained with the victim and the solicitor's victim advocate assisted with court orientation for the victims.

**Performance Measures:**

Personnel used daily logs and monthly reports to determine the number of cases initiated, arrests made and the disposition of these cases. They also made an attempt to track repeat offenders and offenders whose offenses escalated after the initial involvement. The objective of increasing investigators' and prosecutors' skills was achieved by completion of appropriate courses to enhance their expertise and techniques. Increased coordination among agencies was evidenced by the willingness of agencies to meet on a regular basis to work toward improving the system's response to child/elder abuse and criminal domestic violence. Coordination with other agencies also prevented duplication of services. Regular meetings with law enforcement, solicitor's offices and other interacting agencies were used to evaluate the success of a multidisciplinary approach to cases. All training and community awareness sessions conducted by the investigators and prosecutors were documented.

## **Progress and Accomplishments:**

### Child/Elder Abuse Prosecutor

- FY 2002 was the third year of funding for a dedicated prosecutor in a solicitor's office to handle only child/elder abuse cases. Also, the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Solicitor's Office Child/Elder Abuse Prosecution Team, comprised of a prosecutor, investigator and legal assistant, continued in its second year. The availability of the specialized prosecutors has increased public awareness and encouraged victims and families to report these crimes to law enforcement. In turn, law enforcement agencies have worked closely with the prosecutor to enhance the quality of investigations. Improved investigations lead to better prepared cases resulting in a high number of guilty pleas before cases go to trial.
- To increase their knowledge and skills, the grant-funded prosecutors received training that included the annual Solicitor's Conference, National Shaken Baby Syndrome Symposium, Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment, and Finding Words South Carolina-The Advanced Course.
- During FY 2002, 357 cases reached disposition. Of these, 197 (140 child and 17 elder abuse cases) were found guilty at trial or pled guilty. Having a prosecutor handling only these types of cases has helped reduce the backlog by moving cases faster.
- The Prosecution Team has been working closely with law enforcement, DSS, and the Foothills Alliance and they have continued meeting weekly to staff abuse cases. Case staffing has lead to increased coordination among all agencies, helped strengthen cases and lead to more successful convictions.
- In child abuse cases, most agencies conduct a joint interview with DSS and law enforcement interviewing the child together. The Team prosecutor and investigator interview the child victim one time when they first receive the case. If the case goes to trial, they meet with the child victim close to the trial date to familiarize the victim with the process. The victim is encouraged to sit in the witness chair and the prosecutor goes over what to expect during the direct and cross examinations.
- The Prosecution Team prosecutor spoke at The Community Response to Child Sexual Abuse course sponsored by the Foothills Alliance Child Advocacy Center. The prosecutor and investigator also participated in Career Day at a local middle school.
- The Prosecution Team prosecutor was invited to participate on the Children's Just Act Task Force. She is on the committee concerning passage of child hearsay legislation as well as other legislation to help child victims.

### Child/Elder Abuse Investigators

- During FY 2002, 112 individuals were investigated by the four agencies for allegations of child abuse and 71 arrests were made. For cases of suspected elder abuse, there were 40 individuals investigated with 8 arrests. In some situations, victims, both children and elderly, were removed from violent situations and placed in emergency protective custody. The presence of officers with specialized training allowed for a better quality investigation.
- All grant-funded investigators attended at least two courses during FY 2002 to increase their skills at working with child and elder abuse cases. Some of the classes they participated in were Investigating Fatal Child Maltreatment, Elder Care Issues, Child Sexual Exploitation, Omnibus Adult Protection Act and Internet Crimes Against Children.
- Investigators met with staff from solicitor's offices on an ongoing basis to address what charges to pursue and ways to build stronger cases for prosecution. Maintaining contact with the investigators from the solicitor's offices helped build and maintain a positive relationship between the agencies.
- Investigators worked to reduce trauma to abuse victims while conducting the necessary interviews. To achieve this goal, joint sessions were held with DSS representatives. Also, guidance counselors and mental health workers were included to help the victim through the process and to be on hand should any difficulties arise.
- To raise public awareness of state mandates and procedures and problems related to child/elder abuse, investigators with each of the four agencies made several presentations during the past grant year. The majority of these were directed toward senior groups, community groups, civic organizations and crime watch groups. Additional presentations were made to uniform officers, jailers and command staff to raise their awareness of the signs of abuse. One investigator also contacted a local bank to alert them about elder financial abuse.
- One of the investigators has been working with DSS to develop an Adult Protective Services Protocol to be referenced when taking emergency protective custody of vulnerable adults. The protocol is effective for both law enforcement and DSS workers.

#### Child Abuse Investigator

- This grant continued to fund an additional investigator in the Ninth Circuit Solicitor's Office to work directly with the Low Country Children's Center (LCC). The LCC is a community-based multi-disciplinary program that works with the Solicitor's Office and twenty-eight community partners or agencies to coordinate the delivery of services to alleged child abuse victims.
- During FY2002, the investigator investigated 172 individuals, made 51 arrests and had 29 convictions. All of those arrested were adults and only two were repeat offenders.
- The investigator is a member of the Children's Justice Act Task Force. The Task Force aids in public awareness of child abuse by supporting information sharing among professionals, expanding multidisciplinary teams, establishing new training programs, and proposing legislative amendments to improve response to child victims.

- To further her expertise, the investigator attended the National Symposium on Child Abuse sponsored by the National Children's Advocacy Center and Investigating and Prosecuting Fatal Child Maltreatment.

#### Criminal Domestic Violence Investigators:

- During FY 2002, 2,721 cases of domestic violence related offenses were investigated by the six agencies ranging from first offense domestic violence to two murders. There were 1,081 arrests and 402 repeat offenders. Restraining orders were issued in 245 cases.
- The CDV Investigators attended training on topics that included STOP Violence Against Women, Orders of Protection, Investigating Domestic Related Homicides, Domestic Violence in Other Populations, and Prosecution of Domestic Violence.
- All of the CDV Investigators provided some training to other officers in their agencies. In addition, state law now requires that all law enforcement officers receive at least four hours of domestic violence training each year for re-certification.
- Coordination and assistance was received from area agencies such as the Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Department of Social Services, Mental Health, local medical facilities, victim service providers and Solicitor's offices. Written and verbal agreements were established between agencies.
- One investigator participated in volunteer training sessions for new volunteers at the Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Another investigator became a certified Federal instructor in the area of domestic violence through the Department of Homeland Security.
- Yet another investigator was instrumental in helping start a Criminal Domestic Violence Court in his county. The first session was June 27, 2003 and the court will be held twice monthly. The focus of the court is not just punishment for offenders but treatment.
- Having investigators specializing in domestic violence cases has been beneficial for the victims of this crime. The investigators have more direct contact with the victims and make sure that victims are made aware of all assistance and resources available to them.

#### Child/Elder Abuse-Criminal Domestic Violence Investigators

- Some smaller jurisdictions could not support individual investigators for CDV cases and for Child/Elder abuse cases. The dynamics and investigation process of these types of cases is similar. Therefore, five agencies requested funding for an investigator to handle both CDV and Child/Elder abuse incidents in their jurisdictions.
- During FY2002, the five agencies investigated 886 individuals in relation to child abuse and 58 for elder abuse. There were 260 arrests and 27 convictions for child abuse. Elder

abuse investigations resulted in 24 arrests and one conviction.

- Over twelve hundred individuals were investigated in connection with domestic violence incidents. There were 581 arrests made involving 177 repeat offenders.
- All of the investigators attended training to augment their expertise. Course topics included Domestic Violence in the Hispanic Culture, Internet Crimes Against Children, Elder Abuse Investigation, and Investigating and Prosecuting Fatal Child Maltreatment.
- In-service training was conducted by several of the investigators and they were always available to answer questions and provide advice to other officers in relation to CDV, child and elder abuse issues. The investigators have also made presentations to local elder groups and community, church and school organizations to raise awareness.
- To minimize trauma to victims and enhance cooperation and coordination, the investigators met with other criminal justice agencies and victim service providers to develop protocol for investigations.
- One of the investigators attended the FBI Forensic Imaging School at the FBI Academy on Quantico, Virginia. Since returning to his agency, the investigator has done composite imagery for assaults and armed robberies. He also assisted a neighboring agency in a home invasion case in which an 86 year old female was victimized.
- During the grant year, one investigator worked on a high profile case involving a child pornography ring. Other agencies assisting in this case included the FBI, a local police department, the solicitor's office, and the Children's Recovery Center. This case resulted in four arrests and involved over forty victims between the ages of ten and fourteen.
- The investigators are seeing more incidents of domestic violence involving Hispanics as their population continues to grow in the state. Cultural and language differences often complicate these cases. In one case, a Hispanic female with a bruise on her face denied, through a translator, that anyone had hit her. She had fallen and received the injury. The investigator continued contact with her, eventually gaining her trust. The woman was removed from the abusive environment and placed in a shelter. The husband was then charged with CDV high and aggravated.

## DETENTION-JAIL ALTERNATIVES

<b>Subgrants:</b>	One
<b>Implementing Agencies</b>	Charleston County Probate Court- Mental Health Court
<b>Federal Funds:</b>	\$ 106,064
<b>Match Funds:</b>	\$ 35,355
<b>Authorized Purpose Area:</b>	20
<b>Year of BJA Program Brief Approval:</b>	FFY 1997

### **Goals/Objectives:**

The main goal of this program was to establish a comprehensive mental health court program to identify, divert to community treatment, track and provide judicial oversight for offenders with mental health disorders. This population often lacks access to mental health treatment, are often arrested for minor offenses and on release many become repeat offenders, continuing to cycle through the criminal justice system contributing to jail overcrowding.

### **Program Activities/Components:**

Mentally ill defendants arrested for non-violent misdemeanor and simple felony offenses were assessed to determine if they met the admission criteria to be diverted into the Charleston County Mental Health Court (CMHC) program. At an initial appearance at CMHC, a more comprehensive assessment determined the defendant's level of competency and stability, specific mental health issues and criminal history while protecting the defendant's due process rights. After acceptance into the 12 to 18 month program, a formal treatment plan was developed defining the steps the defendant must take to complete the program. The CMHC team and other participating agencies formed a Mental Health Court Task Force that meet monthly to discuss CMHC issues and address corrective actions.

### **Performance Measures:**

Documentation was maintained to measure the timeliness of referrals, compliance rate, completion rate, recidivism rate and outcomes of those participants who graduate. The type of treatment services provided and the number of home visits were also documented. Minutes were kept of the monthly Task Force meetings.

### **Progress and Accomplishments:**

- The Charleston County Mental Health Court (CMHC) is the first mental health court in the state of South Carolina. The Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court issued an order on December 8, 2002 establishing the CMHC and the first session was held on January 2, 2003.
- Defendants were eligible to be diverted to the mental health court if they met the following criteria: had a definable mental illness; were able to understand the terms/conditions to enter the program; had committed a misdemeanor or non-violent felony offense; resided in Charleston County; had no prior record of violent crimes; had no pending cases that would prevent them from completing the program; and the current charge(s) would not result in violation of probation.
- There have been 28 individuals admitted into the CMHC with two opting out of the program. There were no completions since the court had only been operational for six months and the treatment program lasts 12 to 18 months.
- Participants receive intensive case management and supervision during the first three months including stabilizing medications. Initially, they appear in court on a weekly basis, which is modified as they show improvement and compliance. As treatment progresses, participants are stepped down into more traditional mental health services.
- The Mental Health Court Team meets weekly prior to court and consists of judge(s), coordinator, assistant solicitor, assistant public defender(s), deputy sheriff, probation officer(s), and case manager(s).
- Members of the MHC Team attend monthly policy meetings that also include a former Chief Magistrate and managing supervisors of the Public Defender's Office, Probation and Parole, Charleston County Sheriff's Office and the Charleston/Dorchester Community Mental Health Center. Two psychiatrists from the Mental Health Center and the president of the Charleston Alliance for the Mentally Ill also attend as their schedules permit.

## STREET SALES ENFORCEMENT

<b>Subgrants:</b>	Five
<b>Implementing Agencies:</b>	South Carolina Transport Police- State Transport Police- Narcotic Detection Dogs Clinton Police Department Goose Creek Police Department Irmo Police Department Moncks Corner Police Department
<b>Federal Funds:</b>	\$ 306,257 (2002) \$ 27,844 (2001)
<b>Match Funds:</b>	\$ 102,086 (2002) \$ 9,283 (2001)
<b>Authorized Purpose Area:</b>	21
<b>Year of BJA Program Brief Approval:</b>	FFY 1989

### Goals/Objectives:

The goal of this program was to reduce or eliminate narcotics activity by targeting persons violating drug laws at the street level. The main objectives were to apprehend common drug dealers, sellers, traffickers, smugglers, suppliers and typical illegal drug users, thereby lessening the availability of illegal substances to the public.

### Program Activities/Components:

These projects attempted to increase the number of drug cases made, offenders apprehended and convictions handed down. One of the projects utilized narcotic detection dogs to conduct searches of commercial motor vehicles transporting drugs. When possible, lower level criminals were used to identify mid-to-upper level offenders for further investigation. Community meetings helped to increase communication between law enforcement and the public.

### Performance Measures:

Statistics on arrests, drug charges, and convictions were compared with previous years' data to determine areas of improvement or need. Monthly reports were used to track the number of seizures by drug type and quantity. Cash and assets were catalogued for audit accountability and annual comparison purposes. Forfeiture data was maintained and monies reinvested into the program to assist in future project continuation and expenditures for equipment and other resource needs. Input from community residents was examined to help in targeting problem

areas and to judge the effectiveness of the projects.

## **Progress and Accomplishments:**

### Narcotic Detection Dogs:

- The dog handlers attended a thirteen week Basic Narcotic Detection Course at the U. S. Customs Service Canine Enforcement Training Center. Each handler gained certification to handle, train and certify drug detection dogs. They also attended Operation Pipeline/Convoy-Drug Interdiction Assistance Program (DIAP) training sponsored by the DEA.
- The State Transport Police Canine Unit has been operational since January 2003. Since then there have been 361 arrests, \$162,642 in seizures, 178 convictions and 1008 vehicle searches.
- Handlers have emphasized patrolling in and around truck stops, rest areas, and scale/inspection facilities in addition to highways. The expansion of interdiction efforts has led to not only increased cases of drug and criminal violations, but also violations that force the removal of unsafe drivers and vehicles from the highways.
- State Transport Police (STP) Criminal Enforcement Program participants, including the canine handlers, have placed a tremendous importance on the development of interagency partnerships. Interdiction operations are held twice monthly with various federal, county and local agencies. Currently, talks are underway between STP and agencies whose jurisdictions include the Interstate 85 corridor to form a permanent multi-jurisdictional drug and criminal interdiction task force.

### Narcotic Officers:

- During FY 2002, the four grant funded narcotics officers made 1,596 arrests. Vehicles, currency, real property and weapons valued at over \$465,000 were seized in connection with drug arrests by the officers.
- Cocaine, crack, and marijuana were the primary drugs recovered. Methamphetamine labs, however, are becoming more common.
- Developing cooperation with other law enforcement agencies proved to be very beneficial. The narcotics investigators worked with the federal, state, county and local police departments to make cases across jurisdictional boundaries.
- The narcotics officers enhanced their expertise by attending training on topics that included Club Drugs, Methamphetamines, Informant Management and Interview and Interrogation.

## ANTI-TERRORISM

<b>Subgrants:</b>	Fourteen
<b>Implementing Agencies:</b>	South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control South Carolina Department of Natural Resources South Carolina Department of Public Safety-Highway Patrol South Carolina Emergency Preparedness Division Berkeley County Emergency Preparedness Charleston County Charleston Police Department Dorchester County Sheriff's Office Greenville County Sheriff's Office Lexington County Emergency Preparedness Pickens County Emergency Preparedness Richland County Emergency Services Department West Columbia Police Department York County Office of Emergency Management
<b>Federal Funds:</b>	\$ 679,728
<b>Match Funds:</b>	\$ 226,580
<b>Authorized Purpose Area:</b>	26
<b>Year of BJA Program Brief Approval:</b>	FFY 2002

### Goals/Objectives:

The goals of this program were to enhance law enforcement capabilities for responding to terrorist acts and support efforts to develop and implement anti-terrorism training programs.

### Program Activities/Components:

The fourteen funded agencies purchased a variety of equipment to protect first-responders, enhance communication capabilities, and transport equipment in the event of an act of chemical or biological terrorism. Some of the agencies also had personnel attend training on responding to terrorist acts and in the proper use of the equipment.

**Performance Measures:**

Records were maintained regarding the purchase and use of the equipment and all training received. Documentation by each subgrantee that they had signed the state's mutual aid agreement demonstrated cooperation and coordination among law enforcement and emergency response agencies.

**Progress and Accomplishments:**

- The SFA coordinated with the state Emergency Management Division to assure that funding under DCSIP did not duplicate funding from FEMA that was passed through to local agencies. In addition, each subgrantee was required to sign the state mutual aid agreement to assure coordination and cooperation between responding agencies in the event of an act of terrorism.
- Because the FEMA funding did not allow the procurement of anything with wheels, several agencies received DCSIP funding to purchase trailers and/or tow vehicles. These agencies had received first responder equipment but had no means to store the equipment or transport it to the scene of an emergency.
- Equipment purchased to protect first responders included self-contained breathing apparatus, gas masks and filters, responder suits, boots, gloves, air monitors, and agent detection kits. Decontamination tents and equipment were also purchased by some agencies.
- To allow for secure communication during an emergency, the state's Emergency Management Division purchased satellite radio/telephones for the state headquarters and regional COBRA teams. Other agencies acquired 800 mhz walkie-talkies or communication devices to be attached to protective face pieces.
- To increase on-scene assessment and response capabilities in the event of a chemical or biological terrorist incident, the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) utilized simulation computer software in three statewide exercises under federal review. SCEMD has also been selected to pilot several national prototype software programs for managing and analyzing the impact of terrorist incidents.
- Training sponsored by the U. S. Attorney's Anti-Terrorism Task Force provided insight into what security measures need to be addressed and how terrorists operate. Other training included hazmat response and proper use of equipment. Several agencies participated in statewide exercises and some are members of their regional COBRA team.

